Inquiry into purchase of rifles from Denel

†903. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted or propose to conduct any inquiry into the alleged taking of commission in the purchase of rifles worth crores of rupees from South African arms manufacturing company, Denel, during the year 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The alleged payment of agency commission by M/s Denel in connection with the contracts of anti Material Rifles signed in 2002, has been referred to the CBI for investigation, as there was *prima facie* evidence of violation of clauses relating to use of undue influence and agents/agency commission. An FIR has also been filed by the CBI in the matter, *inter alia,* against unknown public servants.

Threat of terrorist attacks from sea route

904. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken cognizance of the recent reports regarding vulnerability of Mumbai and the adjacent region to possible terror attacks from the sea route;

(b) if so, whether the ONGC also is exposed to such threats;

(c) whether Government are aware of the complicity of certain elements in Government agencies and the local fishermen in this regard; if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether patrolling by the Indian Navy and the Indian Coast Guard has been weak in this region; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what steps are being taken to strengthen the security to discount any untoward terror attacks?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) To counter possible threats of attack, assessment of vulnerability of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

vital installations and areas, including Mumbai, adjacent regions and installations of ONGC, is carried out from time to time.

Nothing has come to the notice of the Government in the recent past suggesting complicity of elements in the Government agencies or the local fishermen in terrorist activities in this region.

The Indian Navy and the Indian Coast Guard undertake regular surveillance and patrolling in coordination with other Government agencies like Customs and the State Police as deterrence against potential terrorist activity. In the areas of Gujarat and Maharashtra coast a scheme has also been implemented for joint patrolling in the sea close to the coast by the State/UT police in association with the Indian Navy and the Coast Guard. All necessary steps are taken to maintain security against any untoward terror attack.

Landmines and booby traps in Rajasthan

905. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether landmines and booby traps were laid in the paths, villages and fields, on 2040 km. border with Pakistan, in Rajasthan resulting in loss of human lives and livestock;

(b) if so, the number of people killed, injured and loss of cattle, during the task of demining these landmines and traps, till date, in Rajasthan;

(c) the steps being taken to ensure completion of demining operation;

(d) the total amount of compensation to be paid to the farmers;

(e) how much of the said amount has been paid so far and whether any claims are still outstanding; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (f) Mines were laid as per operational plans dictated by need during OP PARAKRAM. However, no landmines or booby traps were laid without marking. Adequate measures were taken to prevent human casualties due to mine accidents. The total fatal civilian casualties due to landmine accidents reported so far are 39 and non-fatal casualties 122 in the State of Rajasthan. Demining operations began in November 2002 and were completed in March 2004. Demining operations were conducted meticulously using manual and mechanical methods. Compensation for crop and rental damage due to be paid to the farmers of Rajasthan State